projects under implementation for their completion subject to certain special terms and conditions which inter-alia include pledging of promoters' share holding, appointment of an independent engineer to supervise implementation, appointment of concurrent auditors, 100% conve ion option for the new loans and establishment of a cash flow monitoring mechanism. Reportedly, the steel companies are generally agreeable to these conditions.

(d) No clearance from the Union Government is required for setting up a steel project in the private sector, save for certain locational restrictions. During 1998-99, as per available information, four units are likely to commence commercial production with likely additional capacity of about 2.7 Million Tonnes.

(e) No, Sir.

Breakdown of Aluminium Plant in Orissa

2445. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the frequent breakdown of NALCO's Aluminium Plant in Orissa;

(b) the number of times there was breakdown in that Aluminium Plant during the last three years and the losses sustained on account of breakdown;

(c) the steps taken to avc such incidents; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) Breakdown of NALCO's Aluminium Plant is not frequent. There was no breakdown in the Aluminium Smelter Plant of National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1996-97 and 1995-96. A breakdown occured only in 1998-99.

Demand and Production of Zinc

2446. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between domestic demand and production of Zinc in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to meet the demand of Zinc metal; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) There is a gap between the domestic demand and production of zinc in the country and the Primary producers of zinc metal in the country are unable to meet the total domestic demand. Domestic production capacity could not be built up in view of the limited availability of mineral resources in the country. At present, the gap between the domestic demand and primary production of the metal is met through recycling and imports under Open General Licence (OGL). However, Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) by debottlenecking of their existing smelters at Debari and Visakhapatnam propose to increase the capacity of zinc metal by 10,000 tonnes each. Feasibility study is also in progress by HZL for setting up a new zinc smelter with a capacity of 100,000 tonnes per annum. Binani India Limited (BIL) has plans to increase the zinc metal production capacity from existing 30,000 tonnes per annum to 60,000 tonnes per annum during the 9th Five Year Plan. BIL have also proposal to set up new green-field plant for zinc produ ion during 9th/10th Five Year Plan.

Release of Funds for Magnite Mines

2447. SH' BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government has requested for release of funds for magnite mines in the State: